

The Commonwealth.

E. E. HILLIARD, Editor.

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MR. BAILEY'S ARTICLE.

We give much of our editorial space this week to a paper on the education of the negro in North Carolina by Mr. J. W. Bailey in The Outlook. The case is stated with considerable clearness and doubtless will clear up the situation to our friends in the North.

WORK OF THE NEWSPAPERS.

THE COMMONWEALTH has for years believed and contended that we have too many elections in North Carolina. There are several standpoints from which to argue for our position, but the one which we notice now especially is with reference to the work of the newspapers of the State. No one of even fair intelligence and casual observation dares question the fact that the country press is a great power. We country newspaper editors say this often, not in the spirit of boasting or self-laudation, but in order to emphasize some point which we are trying to make relative to our own work and the work of our brethren of the press.

The newspapers are everywhere called upon to do much service in every political campaign, and that without compensation—but no matter for that here. True to their mission in their constant endeavors for the fostering of everything good and worthy, the newspapers are the first to emerge from the dust and smoke of a political battle, whatever may have been the result, and take up the slogan of work for progress in the various industries of agriculture, manufacturing, and the like.

And we do not remember to have seen as strong proof of the persistence of newspapers in their efforts to develop North Carolina as have characterized the work of the press since our last election. Take up what country paper you may and you find in its columns not only evidence of local progress in almost every part of the State, but you find the newspapers doing their work in support of this progress with more than their usual vigor.

Never in the history of North Carolina has her people been under such obligation to the newspapers as they are to-day.

The newspapers are indeed doing a noble work for the State just now, setting forth the thousand and one rich resources which await development all through the State. They have forgotten politics for the time, and if we could stand off all elections for about a dozen years we would be able to redeem some of the sweeping promises that have been made for this new century.

A noble band are the newspaper men of North Carolina, and they deserve well at the hands of every citizen who appreciates his State and the great possibilities which lie just ahead of us. To lead in our great developments is the mission of our newspapers, and right nobly are they doing it.

A WORD TO THE FARMERS.

Mr. J. V. Rogers, of Margarettsville, a member of the well known Rogers family of Northampton, is one of the most successful farmers. He says he cannot afford to plant cotton at present prices. A few days ago he sold from his farm two car loads of Spanish peanuts at 90 cents per bushel, realizing \$50.00 per acre. Last year a northern gentleman told us he bought the finest lot of hams of Mr. Rogers he had seen anywhere, being of better quality than the famous Smithfield hams. He paid Mr. Rogers 15 cents per pound for them when ordinary N. C. hams were selling at 10 cents per pound.

Others can profit by studying the methods of our successful farmers.—Roanoke-Chowan Times.

We print the foregoing in order to call attention of our farmers to one thing noted by our contemporary, and that is the sale of Mr. Rogers' hams. It is surprising that any farmer should make the mistake of trying to run his farm successfully without raising his own meat; and it seems to us that such prices as are named here for hams would be a strong inducement to farmers everywhere to raise meat for sale.

We are aware of the fact that farmers sometimes have trouble with raising hogs. Cholera sometimes gets amongst the hogs and causes many of them to die; and sometimes other disadvantageous circumstances make it a little puzzling to the farmer as to what is best to do.

But other things being equal, the farmer would better raise all the meat he needs at home every time, and when he has a surplus it is not only no drag to him but a source of a good income.

They Work While You Sleep.

While your mind and body rest Cascarets Candy Cathartic repair your digestion, your liver, your bowels, put them in perfect order. Genuine tablets stamped C. C. C. Never sold in bulk. All druggists, 10c.

POPULAR EDUCATION AND THE RACE PROBLEM IN NORTH CAROLINA.

J. W. Bailey in The Outlook, May 11th.

In a recent letter on "Restricted Suffrage in Maryland," published in The Outlook, I read: "The most serious aspect of this Southern movement is the temptation to keep the negro in ignorance if he is thereby kept from voting."

Speaking as a citizen of North Carolina, I wish to offer some observations upon this statement.

It were futile to deny that there are political leaders in the South with no mean following who would keep the negroes in ignorance in order to keep them out of politics. Many even of the more intelligent and less partisan white men seriously doubt whether the ability to read and write will fit the average negro for citizenship, and are preparing in their minds to meet the exigencies of the situation when the negroes, having learned to read and write, are returning to the body politic proper. That is to say, they not only do not think the negroes will be fit to vote when they learn to read; but are ready to deprive them by some other means when the present barriers shall have been overcome.

On the other hand, a large number of our white people, though perhaps not a majority, are in favor of educating the colored people. I think nine-tenths of the preachers and teachers are. Nevertheless, I should add that in North Carolina the preachers and teachers have little to do with politics; and the education of the negroes, since it must be derived from public schools supported by taxation, is a political question.

The Constitution of North Carolina requires that the education funds shall be so used that the schools of each race shall be maintained an equal length of time each year. The period of the free schools for whites now is fourteen weeks, of the colored it is thirteen weeks.

The free schools are supported by a general tax of eighteen cents on the hundred dollars of property and fifty-four cents on the poll. This returns a gross income of about one million dollars, which maintains the schools as above. The Constitution requires that the schools shall be maintained four months in the year. They have not been maintained this length of time throughout the State so long since the Civil War, though for years a number of counties have maintained their schools even longer. I have been told that nowhere in the United States has a public-school system succeeded when supported by a general State tax, as ours is.

At any rate, in 1897 a number of gentlemen persuaded the Republican Populist General Assembly to enact a law requiring an election to be held in August, 1897, in every township in the State, to determine whether a special tax of ten cents on property and thirty cents on the poll should be levied for the purpose of prolonging the terms of the free schools. There are more than fifteen hundred townships in the State. In that election less than fifteen townships voted for the special tax!

In this campaign I had charge of the literature, and also campaigned. Our funds were pitifully meager. We had the support of perhaps fifty leading citizens who signed their names to an address in behalf of the tax. President Alderman of the State University, President Melver, of the State Normal College, and other prominent educational leaders gave themselves freely to the cause of the special tax. Many papers that began as advocates of the tax changed front. The present Governor of our State, then a leader of the people, undertook to campaign for the tax, but he found it impossible to make progress.

The reason universally given for refusing to vote this tax was that it would help the negroes as much as the whites. I may cite the instance of one man with six children to educate, whose extra tax would not have amounted to fifty cents, who refused for this reason to vote for it.

Of course some did not understand the proposal; of course there were others who were "opposed to taxation on general principles," undoubtedly many Democrats withheld their support and discouraged the movement on the ground that it was "fathered" by the Fusion parties, out of which no good thing should come, if they might prevent. But it was clear that, rather than bring about better schools for both races, thousands of white citizens would not vote for a small tax that should provide better schools as well for their children.

The local taxation campaign, however, was not without effect. From the day of that election until now a persistent advocacy of the cause of better schools has been maintained. When the Democratic party came in 1900 to offer the amendment restricting the suffrage, it promised emphatically to provide four-months schools throughout the State, unequivocally pledging that no white child should be disfranchised for being illiterate because of want of opportunity to learn to read and write. The promise was made with especial regard to white children. Without this the amend-

ment would have been defeated. The pledge of four-months schools must necessarily have included those for colored children—though little was said of that. Our present Governor, who led the campaign, all the while proclaimed the necessity of universal education. His adjective was peculiarly fortunate.

The party of the amendment came into power early in January, 1901. The General Assembly, elected in the campaign for the amendment, was overwhelmingly Democratic. In that body a few weeks ago a prominent member of the House from the eastern part of the State, where the negro population is large, proposed an amendment to the Constitution requiring the division of school funds to the races according to the property of the races, the negroes to receive the amount of their school taxes, the white people to receive theirs. This proposal was suppressed; but not until a score or more of members had made known their desire to vote for it. Shortly thereafter a substitute was proposed by a more prominent Senator providing that, while the present clause of the Constitution requiring four months schools for either race should remain, either race might vote a tax upon itself exclusively for the schools of its children. This struck many of us favorably. We were aware that the general tax could never be adequate. We were, therefore, persuaded that we must have a local tax. But we knew that it would at best be many years before the people would vote a local tax whose benefits will be shared by the negroes. It is, indeed, true that in perhaps thirty towns in the State we have local taxes so shared; but to bring the rural townships to this point is quite another matter. A few towns have refused on this account to take a vote on the question of levying the tax necessary to establish graded schools. In view of these facts, many of us were disposed to urge this bill as the most practicable solution of the free-school question. But Governor Aycock made known his opposition to it; and to him, I have no doubt, is owed its sudden loss of advocates.

The Governor's motives were the very highest. He argued that if such a provision should be enacted, an early General Assembly would reduce the general tax from eighteen cents to ten cents, and another from ten cents to five cents, and in a little while the negroes should have no schools, and it should be a question if the white people in many communities would have any. Of course the reader recalls that this is to argue that the clause of the Constitution requiring four months schools would be disregarded. But why not argue that a clause that has been disregarded ever since it was written may remain of no force! The Governor's position, I may say, is that the two races are bound together in this matter, and that they both must have schools. There are many of us who believe that not a few people in North Carolina would be indifferent to the education of the white children if they should be assured that the negroes should not be educated. It is against these that the Governor now declares that he stands, as he has stood, for "universal education."

In him, and in his position rests largely the hope of good schools for the colored people. And yet he was elected on the platform—indeed, he made possible the platform and the amendment—restricting the suffrage. So, then, here is one man who, though very much in favor of depriving the illiterate negro of the suffrage, is equally strong in his demand that the negro shall have schools maintained as long as those of the whites. And his position appears to rest upon conviction that there must be universal education or none. It is my opinion that he will hold off every effort to re-adjust the division of the funds. Whether any one will be in a position to oppose such an effort five years hence is open to question, but I think by that time the poorer white people will have perceived that hope of schools for their own children lies in maintaining the present article of the Constitution and the present basis of dividing the funds.

I have stated that many of the more intelligent white citizens are opposed to the use of money derived from the common taxes to maintain schools for negroes. It is desirable to explain that this opposition does not by any means rest solely upon the knowledge that to educate the negroes will enfranchise them. Indeed, it has existed from the time when educational qualifications were not thought of. In my opinion, this attitude has support from four or five points of view:

First: From the frequently held conviction that to educate a negro is to "ruin a good farm hand," without getting an equivalent in other capacities. Second: From the widely held conviction that our school funds are altogether inadequate to the needs of the white children, and that it is folly to spend them on colored children when the opportunities of the white children are so limited.

Third: From the fear in some quarters that the negro children, not being deterred by poor clothes, etc., will go to school in larger numbers than

the white children, and will thus acquire the ability to read and write more rapidly.

Fourth: From the general race prejudice, arising in part from the old antipathy of the poor whites, who, to a degree, are in competition with the negro in the labor market now, in part from the old attitude of master and slave, and in part from the political divergences created by the negroes' attitude of consistent opposition to the whites, and their persistent ambition for office as well as sporadic efforts to obtain social equality.

I have stated that there are those who are impressed that the present means of limiting the suffrage of the negroes is inadequate and will rapidly become more so. Some of these hope for the abrogation of the Fourteenth Amendment of the Federal Constitution. Others are considering the wisdom of instituting a property qualification in some fashion so soon as the negroes in large numbers have overcome the present barrier.

Finally, I submit that, in the solving of this very important problem, the South must have the sympathetic cooperation of intelligent men in the North. Southern plans are likely to be wisest. The South has the best opportunity to understand. She is more likely to find the best way out. Mere partisan policy will be ruinous. The Northern view may help restrain the South. But I maintain that, on the whole, the Nation ought, so far as possible, to give to the better class of Southern men its support in measures looking to the solution of the problem; and, at any rate, that a policy of interference or unfeeling criticism cannot but result in ill to both North and South. It is for this purpose that I have written this frank estimate of public opinion in the South and cited recent legislative proposals bearing upon the race problem and its relation to popular education in the South.

LETTER TO MR. M. HOFFMAN.

SCOTLAND NECK, N. C.

Dear Sir:—People sometimes think that pure white lead is the only paint. Many is the time that it has gone bad and did the Lead Maker satisfy the complaint? The only comfort the man got was that he'd used lead—cold comfort—not so with L. & M. Paint. They stand ready to make good the slightest flaw. See their Insurance Guarantee. The last gallon made is the same as the first we made 28 years ago. Consider how much oil can be added to every gallon of the paint, with the consequent low actual cost.

Favor Mess. E. T. Whitehead & Co. with a call.

Yours truly,

LONGMAN & MARTINEZ.

New York.

WANTED—TRUSTWORTHY MEN and women to travel and advertise for old established house of solid financial standing. Salary \$780 a year and expenses, all payable in cash. No canvassing required. Give references and enclose self-addressed stamped envelope. Address, Manager, 355 Caxton Building, Chicago.

AHOSKIE NEWS.

Correspondence to The Commonwealth.

AHOSKIE, N. C., May 12, 1901. Farmers are making right much headway with their crops notwithstanding the lateness of the season.

Rev. L. M. Curtis filled his regular appointment at the Baptist church last Sunday. His sermon was for the little people and was very instructive.

Mr. E. F. Branning, of New York, was here last week on business.

Our little town seems to be on a boom now. To large brick plants have just started up combined capacity is fifty thousand brick per day.

Last Friday night the children of Ahoskie gave an entertainment at the Academy. It was well rendered and was enjoyed by all.

Taylor's Grocery Store

Is Strictly Headquarters for anything in the way of Staple and Fancy Groceries, as well as all kinds of Feed Stuffs, etc., carrying the most Complete Line of any house in the county. If you are a visitor to our store call again; if not, call on us for anything you may desire. Country Produce Wanted.

Special Bargains!

New lot of Pants.

New Corned Herrings.

Munt's water-ground Meal.

Ballard's Obelisk Flour.

Syrup and Molasses.

Many other things, but don't forget the Hams and Eggs.

Wilson Allsbrook.

W. T. PARKER, WILSON, N. C.

Corn.....57
Oats.....40
Salt, per sack.....\$1.25
Early Rose Potatoes, 1/2 bush.....\$1.00

BAD BREATH

It has been using CASCARETS and a mild and effective laxative they are simply wonderful. My daughter and I were bothered with bad stomach and our breath was very bad. After taking a few doses of Cascarets we have improved wonderfully. They are a great help in the family.

WILSON, N. C.
115 HILTONHOUSE ST., CINCINNATI, OHIO.

Placid, Palatable, Potent, Taste Good, Do Good, Never Sicken, Weaken, or Grip. No. 26, 26c. CURE CONSTIPATION. Sterling Remedy Company, Chicago, Montreal, New York, 315.

Shake Into Your Shoes. Allen's Foot-Ease, a powder. It cures painful, smarting, nervous feet and ingrowing nails, and instantly takes the sting out of corns and bunions. It's the greatest comfort discovery of the age. Allen's Foot-Ease makes tight or new shoes feel easy. It is a certain cure for swelling, callous and hot, tired, aching feet. Try it to-day. Sold by all druggists and shoe-stores. By mail for 25c. in stamps. Trial package FREE. Address, Allen S. Olmsted, LeRoy, N. Y. to 3-1

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WHY SUFFER FROM CHILLS, FEVERS, NIGHT SWEATS, GRAPE and all other forms of malarial when you can be cured by ROBERTS' CHILL TONIC. The world does not contain a better remedy. Many wonderful cures made by it. 25 cents a bottle. Money refunded if it fails to do the work. Delightful to take.

E. T. WHITEHEAD & CO.

\$500 REWARD.

We will pay the above reward for any case of Liver Complaint, Dyspepsia, Sick Headache, Indigestion, Constipation, or Costiveness we cannot cure with Liverita, the Up-to-Date Little Liver Pill, when the directions are strictly complied with. They are purely Vegetable and never fail to give satisfaction. 25c. boxes contain 100 Pills, 10c. boxes contain 40 Pills, 5c. boxes contain 15 Pills. Beware of substitutions and imitations. Sent by mail. Stamps taken. NERVINA MEDICAL CO., Cor. Clinton and Jackson Sts., Chicago, Ill. For sale by E. T. Whitehead & Co., Druggists, Scotland Neck, N. C.

AGE. PENN MUTUAL. AETNA. MUTUAL LIFE. NEW YORK LIFE. 20 Pay. Life 30 \$30.41 \$33.40 \$33.20 \$30.11 40 33.97 41.34 41.46 37.17 15 Pay. Life 30 36.18 39.67 39.44 37.17 40 46.18 48.84 48.83 45.83 10 Pay. Life 30 47.07 52.62 52.28 50.00 40 59.17 64.61 64.30 60.00 5 Year Convertible 30 12.00 14.45

All policies are incontestable from date of issue in case of death, and participate in company's profits—with annual dividends if desired.

TAYLOR,

THE Pioneer Grocer of the Town

The first to undertake the Exclusive Grocery Business here six years ago, having weathered the storm thus long (while many competitors have dropped in and out) still solicits the patronage of the good people of the town and community. Remember.

Taylor's Grocery Store

Is Strictly Headquarters for anything in the way of Staple and Fancy Groceries, as well as all kinds of Feed Stuffs, etc., carrying the most Complete Line of any house in the county. If you are a visitor to our store call again; if not, call on us for anything you may desire. Country Produce Wanted.

Special Bargains!

New lot of Pants.

New Corned Herrings.

Munt's water-ground Meal.

Ballard's Obelisk Flour.

Syrup and Molasses.

Many other things, but don't forget the Hams and Eggs.

Wilson Allsbrook.

W. T. PARKER, WILSON, N. C.

Corn.....57
Oats.....40
Salt, per sack.....\$1.25
Early Rose Potatoes, 1/2 bush.....\$1.00

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It is now complete with everything in the line of

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Our prices are as low as can be found in the South, and

Our Goods Speak For Themselves.

Some New Specialties are attractive to all interested in Furniture. Call and see them.

Thanking the people of Scotland Neck and community for liberal patronage thus far we are here to furnish bargains to all.

L. B. Lewis Furniture Co., Scotland Neck, North Carolina.

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Representing the Strongest and most Liberal Companies in the world.

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A Comparison of Rates:

AGE.	PENN MUTUAL.	AETNA.	MUTUAL LIFE.	NEW YORK LIFE.
20 Pay. Life	30 \$30.41	\$33.40	\$33.20	\$30.11
	40 33.97	41.34	41.46	37.17
15 Pay. Life	30 36.18	39.67	39.44	37.17
	40 46.18	48.84	48.83	45.83
10 Pay. Life	30 47.07	52.62	52.28	50.00
	40 59.17	64.61	64.30	60.00
5 Year Convertible	30 12.00			
Term Policies	40 14.45			

All policies are incontestable from date of issue in case of death, and participate in company's profits—with annual dividends if desired.

Edwards & Co.'s Special Bargains.

Straw Hats, nicest line and in styles to suit young or old.

Also nice line of Pearl Gray Felt Hats.

Handsome line of Patent Leather Slippers for ladies, gents and children.

800 yards handsome Mattings from 10c. to 35c. A rare bargain.

Overstocked in Shoes, a most handsome line, and bargains for the money.

A car load of No. 1-Timothy Hay at \$1.05 the hundred for cash.

Car load of Royal Crown Flour. None Better.

We are offering many other Bargains not named here. It is only necessary to see them to appreciate them. Call soon and get the pick.

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Contractors and Builders.

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Mantels, Brackets, And

General Scroll Work.

All work guaranteed at reasonable prices.

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SCROFULA, ULCERS, OLD SORES, PAINFUL-TREATMENT FREE.

First, second or third stages positively cured by taking B. B. B. (Botanic Blood Balm). Blood Balm kills and destroys the Syphilitic Poison in the Blood and expels it from the system. At the same time Botanic Blood Balm builds up the shattered constitution. Have you sore throat, pimples, eruptions, colored spots, old sores, ulcers, scabs, scrofula, itching skin, aches and pains in bones or joints, sore mouth, falling hair? Then Botanic Blood Balm will heal every sore, stop the aches and make the blood pure and rich and give the rich glow of health to the skin. Over 3000 testimonials. Botanic Blood Balm thoroughly tested for 30 years. Sold at drug stores, \$1 including complete directions. Trial treatment of B. B. B. free by dressing Blood Balm Co., Atlanta, Ga. Describe trouble and free medical advice given. Don't despair of a cure. Blood Balm cures when all else fails.